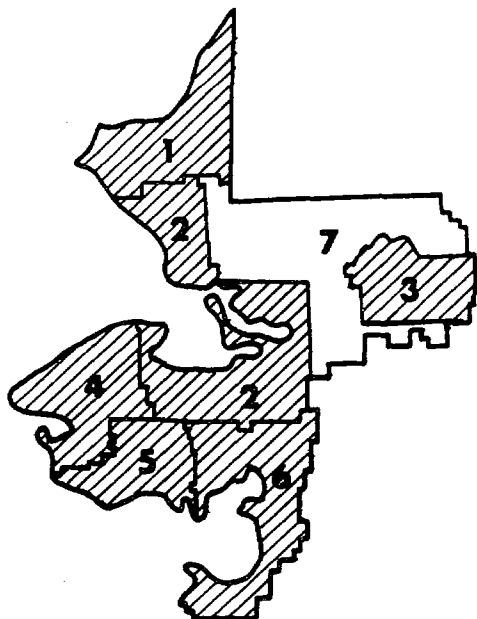


Management Unit 7: REMNANT RIVERS



Background

Location and Land Ownership. This management unit consists of state-owned shorelands under the Kobuk, Noatak, and other navigable waters outside other management units. The state owns the beds of navigable waterways (these are called shorelands) as defined by federal law. A determination of navigability is made when land is transferred from federal ownership to private owners, or when requested by a federal land manager. DNR also makes determinations when needed because of a state interest.

Within the Northwest planning area, the Noatak and Kobuk rivers have been determined navigable. The uplands adjacent to these rivers are primarily federally owned land administered by the National Park Service as part of the Noatak National Preserve and the Kobuk Valley National Park. In addition, some Native-owned and other private land is adjacent to these rivers.

Resources and Land Uses. Navigability has been determined for only a few rivers in the planning area, but many more are undoubtedly navigable. The rivers are used for a variety of subsistence activities and for barge transport, and serve as important access corridors for village and

regional travel. The Noatak and Kobuk Rivers and other rivers within the National Parks are used for recreation by visitors from all over the world. The river beds and riparian vegetation provide important habitat. Very little vegetated riparian habitat is state owned. State ownership is largely confined to riverbeds and gravel bars.

Management Intent

General. Except for the Noatak and Kobuk rivers, the state-owned shorelands beneath rivers in this unit will not be classified as a part of this plan. However, state land use authorizations for these rivers will be consistent with the management guidelines in this plan. These rivers will remain in state ownership, be available for multiple use, and remain open to mineral entry. In general, they will be managed to protect existing uses, including subsistence, habitat and harvest, recreation, trail and other transportation uses. These shorelands will be managed consistent with policies for other shorelands in the planning area as described in the general management intent on p. 3-4.

Noatak and Kobuk Rivers Subunit. Noatak and Kobuk river shorelands will be kept in state ownership and managed for multiple use with emphasis on public recreation, habitat, subsistence, public access, and transportation. Management will protect the quality of the existing habitat and the use of the rivers for fishing, hunting, and transportation (including winter trails on or along these rivers.) These rivers have national importance for recreation, and state management will take into account potential conflicts and impacts on the recreation quality of the rivers. Gravel extraction is allowed when consistent with the policies found in Chapter 2.

Most shorelands within this subunit remain open to mineral entry. Four sheefish spawning areas on the Kobuk River will be closed to mineral entry to protect that important habitat. The sheefish spawning areas are shown on the management unit maps for Unit 3, and in detail in Appendix H.

The *Resource Information Summary* chart for this subunit highlights important resource values found in the subunit. The summary is based on information from various resource reports prepared for the plan (see appendices C and D).

The *Land Use Designation Summary* chart for this subunit provides a quick picture of planned uses for the subunit. For a complete description of management policy, the chart must be used with the statement of management intent and the management guidelines.

Coastal Plans. Navigable rivers within the Northwest Arctic Borough Coastal Management Plan (CMP) will be managed consistent with the coastal management program. The CMP has identified three Important Resource Areas and four Sensitive Use Areas in this management unit. These are listed below and are shown on

the maps in Appendix J. These areas have special policies for subsistence which apply through the CMP.

Important Resource Areas

North Fork Squirrel River/Omar River
Salmon River
Selawik/Hunt/Redstone Rivers Caribou
Migration Corridor

Sensitive Use Areas

Onion Portage
Selawik River Sheefish/Whitefish Spawning
Area
Noatak River Chum Salmon Spawning Area
Kobuk River Sheefish/Whitefish Spawning
and Use Area

Management Guidelines

General. The complete set of areawide guidelines is presented in Chapter 2. The *Resource Information Summary* charts for this unit identify important trails, known or probable heritage sites, and other resource values in specific subunits that are addressed by the appropriate guidelines in Chapter 2. Any of the Chapter 2 guidelines could apply to certain uses within this management unit. Those that are most likely to apply are:

Coordination and public notice
Fish and wildlife habitat
Heritage resources
Materials
Public and commercial recreation Transportation and utilities

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 7: Remnant Rivers

RESOURCE	Kobuk and Noatak rivers
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Fire Protection	N/A
Fish and Wildlife	A2: black bear, caribou, moose, waterfowl, anadromous and resident fish, and small game.
Forestry	N/A
Heritage Resources	Known cultural values at Onion Portage.
Important Trails	Kotzebue - Shungnak trail along Kobuk.
Minerals	Low to moderate
Oil & Gas	Unknown
Public Access	Wheeled and floatplane along lower Kobuk and Noatak; scattered plane access elsewhere.
Recreation	Camping and floating; nationally known recreation rivers.
Reindeer Grazing	N/A
Settlement Suitability	N/A
Subsistence	Subsistence use in this unit has been documented by studies of the DF&G, Subsistence Division, for the communities of Ambler, Anaktuvuk, Buckland, Kiana, Kivalina, Kobuk, Noatak, Noorvik, Selawik, and Shungnak. Subsistence use by other communities—such as Deering and Kotzebue—is known to exist, but the extent of their use has not been documented in studies for the NWAP.

See Appendix C for a list of reports with more detailed information, and Appendix D for definition of ratings.

LAND-USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

MANAGEMENT UNIT 7 - REMNANT RIVERS

SUBUNIT	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS			COMMENTS
	PRIMARY SURFACE USE ¹	PROHIBITED SURFACE USE ²	SUBSURFACE ³	
Kobuk and Noatak rivers	Habitat and harvest/ Recreation lands	Remote cabins Commercial rec. leasing in some areas	Open, except at sheefish spawning areas	No map is included for this management unit.

¹Secondary uses include: none identified.

²Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.

³All areas are available for leasing for leasable minerals. Statements of whether or not the unit is open to mineral entry refer only to locatable minerals. See glossary in Appendix A for definitions of leasable and locatable minerals. See Appendix H for detailed descriptions of areas closed to mineral entry.